

# THE POLISH REVIEW

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Castle Square in War-  
saw with King Zygmunt  
III Column, scene of  
fighting between Polish  
Home Army and the  
Germans.





# The Polish Government and the Future of Poland\*

by STANISLAW MIKOLAJCZYK, Prime Minister of Poland

FOR quite some time now I have been coming across ever more and more articles in the Press which speak of Poland and particularly of the Polish Government in disparaging terms. Some of the opinions expressed there are not only unfriendly and hostile but even offensive to those who, under the leadership of the late General Sikorski, have been called to the helm of the Polish Government since September, 1939, and who have assumed the heavy task of representing the Polish cause in the Allied Councils.

It is alleged by some broadcasting stations or claimed by some columnists or shouted at public meetings that the Polish Government is reactionary, that it consists exclusively of men representing the propertied classes and in particular the Polish land-owners, that the Polish Government does not represent the Polish people and that no notice should be taken of it.

What are the facts? I shall attempt to give a dispassionate answer and I let the facts speak for themselves.

The Government, over which I have the honor to preside represents all Polish parties whose programme is democratic, parliamentary and constitutional. There are three Socialists in it, three representatives of the Peasant Party, two representatives of the Centre, and two National Democrats who may be described as Conservatives. If the composition of the Cabinet is analyzed from a class point of view, it will be seen that the Government is headed by a representative of the peasantry—indeed, Poland is first and foremost a peasant country—that furthermore one of the members of this Cabinet is a miner, another a lawyer of Jewish origin, two are journalists, one is a professional soldier—who in addition is also a learned historian—one is an industrialist, one is a priest and one is a professional diplomat. There is not a single representative of the land-owning class or of the aristocracy among us, nor is there any representative of that political party which ruled Poland, not always successfully, during the last 15 years before the outbreak of the war.

It is often suggested that the Polish Government is aggressively militarist and has anti-democratic tendencies, while actually its members have proved by deeds that they always opposed political adventurers, the rule of the military caste and every form of anti-parliamentary or dictatorial regime. For years these men had been deprived of any influence on the actual policies of their country and their names were known mostly from proceedings instituted against them or from charges levelled on them that by their championship of a democratic and peasant Poland they were weakening the structure of the State on the eve of war.

The composition of the Polish Government, the past of its members, the unyielding attitude of this Government in the war against Germany and its unflinching courage during even the blackest days of the war give me the right to denounce the senseless accusations of Fascism levelled at my Government and to shrug my shoulders at the charges that I, myself, am in favor of an anti-democratic constitution for Poland, entirely at variance with the ideals of the United Nations.

The purpose of all these charges is perfectly clear. Those who are undermining the position of the Polish Government

and who are doing everything in their power to see it break up under the strain of the difficulties raised in its way and diplomatic complications are merely desirous to show it in a false light in order to be able to decide the fate of Poland without any regard for the wishes of the Poles. I should describe this method as a preparatory stage of the final strangulation. This method is unlikely to succeed, because it is based entirely on falsehoods. The Polish Government does not see any future for Poland in a world which would be the scene of constant wars between conflicting imperialisms. This world, we hope, will disappear for ever, with the doom of Nazism and will not reappear in any form. To enable the long suffering Polish people to heal their wounds, to organize their life, to restore their culture and develop along the path of progress within the European family of nations we need more than ever peace and concord and collaboration among all the nations.

Above all we need freedom. It is often alleged that Poles are emotional, sentimental and that their nerves are frayed. There is some truth in this and every day I myself come upon difficulties whose origin is to be found in these characteristics of our race. Yes, these allegations are true, but how would you expect a nation who, every generation for centuries, has been the victim of ruinous wars and which has been haunted with the nightmare of slavery, how could such a nation, I ask, not be emotional and neurotic? How could you expect people, who in every generation have to fight for their freedom, for whom prisons, concentration camps, deportations and political immigration are normal occurrences, and for whom membership in a conspiracy is the normal school of public life, how could such people, I repeat, be well-balanced and level-headed? You will realize how difficult it is to explain to Polish airmen, sailors and soldiers, who have been fighting ever since 1939, that they should take political developments calmly and not be unduly depressed or influenced by the new dangers which the war is bringing in its wake to the Polish cause. How difficult it is to convince my fellow-citizens that they have to forget all the wrongs inflicted upon them and extend their friendship to the oppressors of only yesterday.

I do not doubt that the Great Powers will view the Polish problem in its proper perspective when the time comes to rehabilitate Europe after the war and settle her conflicts and her age-long disputes. The Polish problem should be settled in such a way that it would cease to be an open sore on the body of Europe, always containing the germs of a world-wide conflict. It should be clear that if Poland were not to regain her independence or if brutal and ruthless conditions were imposed upon her against the will of the Polish people, Europe would have to face the prospects of a new and dangerous conflict. I am not one of those who continually harp on historical comparisons and who draw too far-reaching conclusions from the past, but I think that I should remind my readers of the fact that when, after the Napoleonic Wars, Poland was wronged by the Treaty of Vienna of 1815, she refused to be content with this solution and opposed it for 100 years until her claims were made good by the Treaty of Versailles.

We should not forget this lesson. We must do everything in our power to dispose of the germs of European conflicts

\* From *New Europe*, London, August, 1944.

# BATTLE-SONG OF WARSAW

Broadcast by the Warsaw radio station

"Blyskawica" on August 24, 1944

*Though we fight among graves, still our spirits are high.*

*Fighting Warsaw fights on, none here weeps in despair!*

*We straddle the Hun and with bare hands we try  
To strangle the beast as he creeps to his lair.*

*While you still complain of the bloodshed and flame*

*Devouring Warsaw as day succeeds day,  
We here with our bare breasts the enemy stay  
And smile at your praise and suggestions of fame.*

*But why must your song of lamenting still sound  
When here the great day, long awaited, has come,  
And everyone, men, women children are found  
Fighting and bleeding for Poland, for home!*



Castle Square in Warsaw as it looked before the German invasion of Poland.

*Let the funeral dirges no longer be heard.  
For here beats the great heart of Poland—intact!  
Warsaw speaks! Warsaw thunders! And this is her word:*

*"Give us not praise. Give us arms! Let us act!"*

—TRANSLATED BY ELIZABETH CLARK REISS

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## THE POLISH GOVERNMENT AND THE FUTURE OF POLAND

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wisely and justly, and exorcise the nightmare of a new and even more terrible war.

We should not forget that if peace in Central Europe will not be assured in accordance with the just demands of the countries in that part of the world no reconstruction plans are likely to succeed. Indeed, in that case, national and political conflicts, passions and quarrels and time-honored hatreds will thrive again and they will provide nationalistic

demagogy with an ideal breeding ground.

The chief purpose of the Polish Government is justice both in internal and external relations. We did not shrink from fighting and we were first to fight the Germans arms in hand and to refuse any compromise with them. It is my sincerest opinion that the Poles will be the last to depose their arms in the battle of freedom and as the most faithful soldiers of that great cause they will subconsciously be more aware than any other people of what a just peace should be.



# POLISH HOME ARMY FIGHTS IN FLAMING RUINS OF WARSAW\*

**W**ARSAW is still fighting. The Polish Home Army, although it fights alone with but little aid from the outside, has not been crushed by the far superior German forces. This latest battle for the capital of Poland is now in its fifth week, and the Home Army not only still holds out, but is making some further gains on German positions.

On the twenty-second day of the insurrection, the Warsaw air port at Okęcie was reported evacuated by the Germans. This would enable Allied planes flying in supplies to land instead of dropping them by parachute. During the past week of resistance, British planes based in Italy flew 900 miles to bring supplies to the embattled Poles. These supplies have been particularly helpful to those divisions of Polish Underground forces entrenched in the Pilsudski University and in the former Cabinet Building.

One of the Allied bombers that flew over Warsaw dropped a floral wreath lettered with the inscription: "From British soldiers to our fighting comrades of the Polish Home Army." General Bor, in a radio broadcast, thanked them thus: "Fighting Warsaw sends to these heroic airmen words of thanks and gratitude. We bow our heads to those crews who lost their lives."

At last reports, German infantry and tank attacks on the Leszno and Nalewki districts had failed to dislodge the Poles. The "Old City" is still under continual German airplane and artillery barrage. The Frascati Park area and Sikorski Avenue, formerly known as Jerusalem Boulevard, are also in patriot hands. So desperate have the German forces of occupation become in Warsaw, that they have had to resort to their old practice of taking hostages. More than 150,000 civilians were taken by the Germans in an effort to halt the Polish uprising. A large number of these prisoners were women and children. All were taken to the Pruszkow concentration camp outside of Warsaw where it is reported that they are being denied food and tortured in an effort to force the insurrectionists to capitulate.

A 24-hour curfew has been imposed on the entire city. Only old women may appear on the street for two hours a day beginning at noon. But the spirit of the civilian population remains as indomitable as ever. Girls and women now make up one-seventh of the Home Army fighting in Warsaw. Besides helping with ammunition supplies, they man the 40 first aid stations and hospitals. They also take care of the 100 field kitchens and act as runners, bearing messages from one part of the city to another. Some fight shoulder to shoulder with Polish soldiers. Even 14-year-old girls are now expert grenade throwers. The inmates of the Warsaw Institute for the Deaf and Dumb are also helping in the epic struggle.

The Germans are now burning down large parts of the city in order to drive the Home Army into the open. More than 1,000 private homes have been burned in the northern part of the city. The entire southwestern section is also in flames. Many famous and historic buildings have been put to the torch. Among the latter are the Warsaw Cathedral, churches

\* News of the final outcome of the latest Battle of Warsaw has not yet reached the United States as this issue of *The Polish Review* goes to press.



German strongpoint along the Vistula. Opposite is the Praga suburb, which was the goal of the Russian offensive.

in the "Old City," the Church of Our Lady, the former Bernardine Church, the Church of the Holy Cross, St. Jacob's Church, the Calvinist Church, the City Hall, the National Museum, the Institute of Hygiene, the Radium and Eye Institutes, the Lazarus and Red Cross Hospitals and the Ateneum Theatre.

## AN APPEAL FROM THE WOMEN OF WARSAW TO POPE PIUS XII

*"Holy Father—we Polish women fighting in Warsaw are inspired by deep patriotism and devotion to our country."*

*"While we have defended our fortress for three weeks, we lack food and medical supplies. Warsaw lies in ruins. The Germans are murdering the wounded in hospitals. They drive women and children before them, screening their tanks."*

*"There is no exaggeration in the reports of children fighting and destroying German tanks with bottles of gasoline. We mothers see our sons dying for liberty and their country. Our husbands, sons and brothers are not regarded as combatants."*

*"Holy Father, no one helps us. The Russian armies, that have been standing for three weeks at the gates of Warsaw, do not move a step forward. The help that has come from Britain is insufficient. The world ignores our fight. Only God is with us."*

*"Holy Father—Vicar of Christ—if you can hear us, bless us, Polish women fighting for the Church and liberty!"*

—Warsaw, Poland  
August 22, 1944

During the fourth week of the battle, heavy fighting was going on all over the city. The Poles still held Zoliborz, the northern suburb, but the German forces attacking them were strengthened by fresh troops. The Poles' lack of airplanes makes them powerless to stop these replacements. Polish barricades throughout the city are under continuous fire from heavy German mortars. German "Goliath" tanks are also being used against these barricades. German planes are having a field day against the residential districts. Only a very few of the several thousand historic medieval houses in the "Old City" are still intact.

The Home Army now has its own underground radio station, "Blyskawica" (Lightning). Short wave broadcasts from this free Warsaw radio station have been picked up in England. General Bor now sends his daily reports via this station. On the 21st of August the Warsaw Telephone Exchange was taken by the patriots after a bloody fight. The Poles captured the 14-story building in a seven-hour battle. Twenty Germans were killed and 70 taken prisoner during this action. It had been one of the most fortified German points in Warsaw. German "Tiger" tanks tried a counterattack but were beaten back. Now that this central exchange has fallen, the entire telephone network of Warsaw is in Polish hands.

Before fighting for the electrical power station began, 23 soldiers of the Polish Home Army were already there disguised as workers. According to an eye-witness account they were placed there to prepare plans of action for the expected



Printing an underground Polish newspaper. Half an hour later, this printer shot his way out of a Gestapo ambush.

uprising. The day before, the Germans had increased the strength of their garrison to 150 military policemen stationed in concrete pillboxes and blockhouses in every building of the works. The signal to strike was the explosion of a mine in one of the buildings. After 19 hours of fighting, the power station was taken by the Poles. The Home Army losses were 17 killed, 27 wounded, and 56 taken prisoner. The men who captured the electrical works were all clerks and workers who had had no previous battle experience. Despite ceaseless bombardment from German 75 mm. guns, the Poles maintained the supply of electric power to the city.

However, the water situation in the city is serious. Poles now must depend on old wells from which water can only be drawn by hand. Food stocks too are greatly depleted. General Bor's latest communique tells that Warsaw has become a city of cave-dwellers. A system of underground tunnels provides the only safe means of communication. Bread supplies are running low. Suburban farms are doing their best to supply Warsaw with food.

Another eye-witness story of the uprising comes from a British airman who escaped from a German prisoner of war camp in Poland, joined the Polish Home Army, and has been fighting alongside the Poles since the first day of the battle for Warsaw. He sends regular dispatches to London via the underground radio station. He has related that: "In some places the Poles have broken into German



Machine gun post of the Polish Home Army.

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# EX-DETROITER WAS MAYOR OF ANCIENT LUCK IN EASTERN POLAND



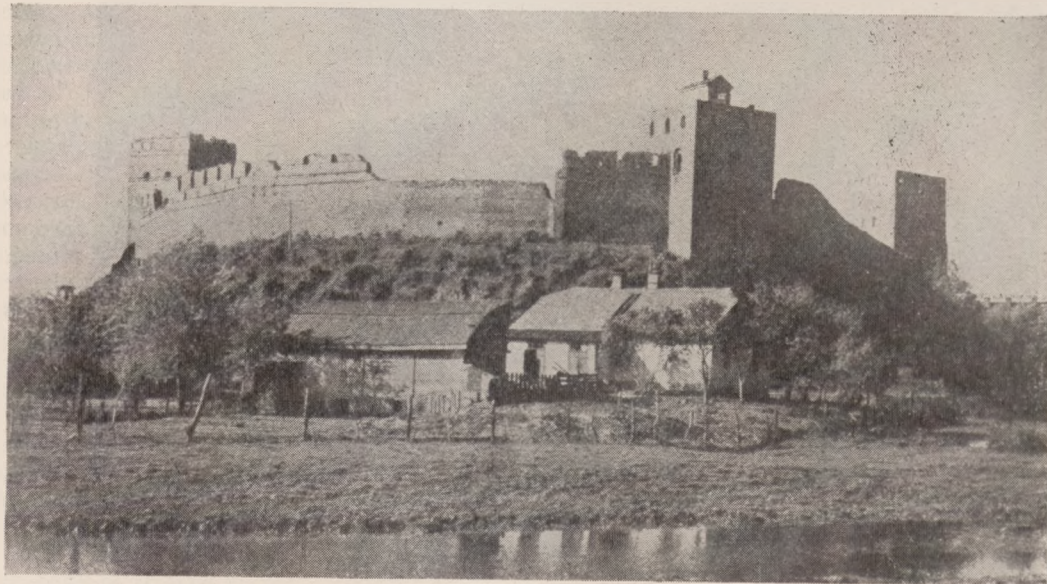
Polish military parade in Luck on the Polish national holiday, the Third of May.

**M**IDWAY between Lwow and Pinsk in southeastern Poland lies the ancient picturesque city of Luck. In prehistoric days it gave its name to the Slavic tribe *Luczanie*, and in the 11th century was the chief town of an independent principality. Across its fertile fields and winding rivers ran the great trade route from West to East, leading from Cracow, Lwow and Lublin to Kiev. Polish King Boleslaw the Bold won it in 1073. Later, Lithuanian dukes fought Ruthenian princes for it. Luck reverted to Poland in the 14th century. In the 15th century it was the seat of a bishop and had become wealthy and important. So important, in fact, that it was able to play host to a conference of monarchs. The Emperor Sigismund, King Jagiello of Poland, the King of Denmark, Wallachian and Muscovite princes, and Prussian potentates deliberated here in 1429 on the best methods of defense against Tatar invasions.

During the wars between Russia and Poland in the 16th century, and especially after the extermination of its 40,000 inhabitants, flourishing Luck declined in importance. In 1791 it was taken by Russia and like so many other cities in Poland, suffered more than a century of oppression. The scene of heavy fighting during World War I and the Polish-Russian war of 1919, war-torn Luck returned to a free Poland in 1921 and won the honor of being selected as the capital of the newly-formed Volhynian Voivodship.

Although it had been devastated by military operations, some

of Luck's historic landmarks escaped the ravages of time and war. Ruins of old walls from the days Luck was a fortified town still stood in 1939. The oldest relic of by-gone centuries was the Lubart Castle, built in the 14th century. Situated high on a plateau, it dominated the region below, and its thick walls and three bastions were a reminder of its one-time impregnability. In free Poland the bastions were put to constructive use. One housed the tax collector's office, another the municipal archives and fire look-out post, while a third was outfitted as a chemistry and bacteriology laboratory. The inner building, erected in more recent times with stones from the ruined part of the Castle, was turned into a public school. Every year on the Polish national holiday of May 3rd, the



Lubart Castle in Luck.

spacious, cobbled courtyard witnessed a military review that evoked memories of medieval knights rallying to the defense of their burg.

Two old cathedrals and numerous other places of worship also remembered the days of the Polish Commonwealth. The Latin Cathedral, a magnificent early 17th century Renaissance structure, was completely restored after the fire of 1781. Located near the so-called lower castle, it is adjacent to the complex of former Jesuit buildings.

The predilection of the Roman Catholic Church for monumental architecture found expression in the many temples and convents of Luck. The Dominicans, Jesuits, Carmelites, Bernardines, Trinitarians and Order of St. Bridget, all had retreats here. There had also been many Greek Catholic churches in Luck, but as they had been small and built of wood, they gradually disappeared. The Greek Catholics of Luck worshipped at the former Bernardine Church, which had been transformed into a Cathedral. Although no trace remained of the old Greek Catholic Cathedral, a simple cross in a square, marked the spot where it had stood centuries ago. Serving the religious needs of the large Jewish community of Luck was a 300-year-old synagogue, erected by Polish King Zygmunt III, that still stood on the bank of the Styr in 1939. A white, flat-roofed, square structure, reminiscent of Moorish fortresses, it adjoined an embrasured defense bastion, formerly part of the lower castle. The very old Karaïm sect, exterminated by the Germans, also had a *kienesa*, or temple, picturesquely hidden amid foliage and pleasant manor houses.

Charming as were Luck's historic landmarks, they could not suffice to make the city a livable town. Under Russian rule it had no running water, sewage system or electricity. Free Poland encouraged modern progress by granting a loan to Luck for improvements. Thus, when war came again in 1939 to this quaint town, Luck had a power plant, running water, sewage disposal and telephones. Tens of thousands of feet of streets had been paved, sidewalks installed, modern bridges erected, market stalls constructed, new thoroughfares cut through and hundreds of trees planted alongside them to make them shady and attractive.

Nor was the cultural life of Luck neglected. By 1937 its population had risen to 37,061 and to educate the youth of the city there were six nursery schools, fifteen elementary schools, four high schools and two trade schools. Eight libra-



Jewish Synagogue in Luck.



Catholic Cathedral in Luck.

ries provided books for relaxation and instruction, while the Volhynian Museum had established a fine reputation for itself. In a few short years, the city constructed an orphanage, homes for white collar workers, a hospital for contagious diseases, a municipal building and a "House of Polish Societies" boasting a large ballroom, reading room, library, restaurant and picture gallery.

The rapid strides made by Luck were in part due to its energetic Mayor, Dr. Zielinski. He was a native of Lwow, who had come to the United States and lived in Detroit for some ten odd years. Between editing a newspaper and serving as an alderman, Zielinski had had ample opportunity to observe American life and methods. Returning to Poland after World War I, he settled in Luck, and soon became a popular figure in municipal affairs. His hobby in America had been the organizing of Polish theatrical groups. It was only natural then, that he should become interested in a theatre for Luck. So, this dynamic repatriate not only founded a permanent municipal theatre in Luck, but also directed it himself. Its company gave several performances a week in the city and toured near-by towns during the remaining days. To help meet expenses moving pictures were shown in the Luck Theatre building on days when there were no theatre performances. In addition to the Polish theatre, Luck also had a Ukrainian theatre.

Despite its ancient ramparts and scenic values, suggesting a quiet, sleepy town, Luck was a thriving business center. It had eight large banks and as many lesser financial institutions. Flour mills, breweries, saw-mills, foundries, cement works, factories making furniture, soap, candles, candy, baskets and a score of other products, brick-kilns, bakeries, tanneries were all a part of modern Luck.

Now again this thousand-year-old city has heard the roar of cannon and has seen tanks roll through its streets. But the sounds of battle are nothing new to battle-scarred Luck. It will look through the catalogue of its achievements and draw from it the force to rebuild what war and enemy occupation have destroyed.



# HOLLYWOOD-MADE FILMS ON POLISH SUBJECTS



In the past few years moving picture theatres in the United States have been showing four full-length films dealing with Polish topics. The earliest of these was the Ernst Lubitsch production "*To Be or Not to Be*," starring Carole Lombard and Jack Benny and released through United Artists. Then came "*In Our Time*," a Warner Bros.-First National Picture, with Ida Lupino and Paul Henreid, directed by Vincent Sherman. "*None Shall Escape*" was made by Columbia Pictures; directed by Andre De Toth, it starred Marsha Hunt and Alexander Knox. "*Madame Curie*," based on the best seller

biography by Eve Curie, was filmed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer; directed by Mervyn Le Roy, it starred Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. These pictures testify to the sympathy shown by the American moving picture industry to Poland in her heroic fight with the aggressor. They lend moral support to Poles battling all over the world for the restoration of their country's independence.



# POLISH ARMORED DIVISION SEALS ALLIED VICTORY IN NORMANDY



General Montgomery and Polish Commander General Maczek exchange impressions in Normandy, France.

**S**OLDIERS of the Polish Army based in the British Isles have been formed into an armored division that now fights with the Canadians, British and Americans for the "rocket-coast" of Normandy, the cities of Rouen and Le Havre, and has materially aided in the encirclement of Paris.

The Poles also took part in the earlier, full-scale attack that was launched south of Caen on the road to Falaise. This Polish Division fought side by side with Canadians in one of the fiercest battles since the beginning of the invasion. Polish tanks broke through two enemy defense lines to advance some six miles. Using heavy tanks, artillery and mortars, the Germans put up exceptionally strong resistance. Poles finally took and held some strategic towns that had changed hands several times during the fight. German snipers were rooted out of burnt and destroyed villages.

Along with the Canadians and British, the Poles had the important task of opening the road to Paris. In the sector south of Caen, elements of 14 German divisions fought to break through Allied encirclement. During the savage three-day battle, the Poles were for a time completely cut off and supplies had to be flown in to them.

On August 15, General Maczek's Polish Armored Division crossed the Dives River at two points northeast of Falaise and for six days bore the full brunt of the attack by units of two fanatical Nazi Elite Guard Corps. The grim defense

and tenacity of these Polish tank crews sealed Allied victory in Normandy by closing the Falaise gap.

On the first day of the battle, an infantry unit was sent up to clear a strategic wood so that Polish armor could go through. Impatient at their delay, the Poles sent a reconnaissance group into the forest. This group rolled through, leaving nothing for the infantry to clean up.

When the Poles broke through the Germans' second line of defense, they had to fight on open, flat terrain that was in the enemy's favor; but German "Tiger" and "Panther" tanks were of no avail against the resolute Poles. The Germans retreated in such haste that they left quantities of guns, knapsacks and helmets along the roads where the battle had raged.

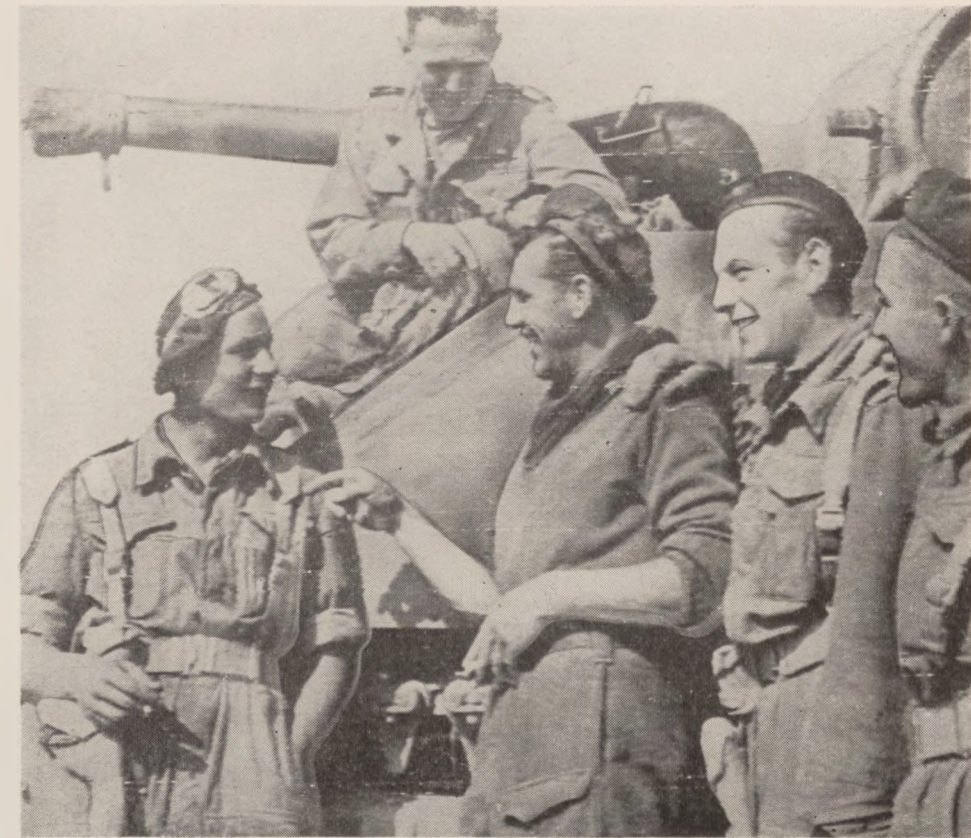
The six-day offensive netted the Poles 5,000 German prisoners and 137 officers including the Commander of the Panzer Corps, 4 colonels, and 7 field-officers. As the Polish Corps had no means of transporting such a number of prisoners to the rear, they were all transferred to the custody of American units who had operated some five miles west of the Poles.

Booty taken by the Polish troops included 55 heavy tanks, 14 armored cars, 38 armored transports, 44 guns of various caliber, 207 mechanized vehicles and 152 horse-drawn vehicles.

Following the battles fought north of Chambois which were a deciding factor in preventing the surrounded German Seventh Army from breaking through, General Crerar, Com-

mander-in-Chief of the Canadian First Army, sent a message to General Maczek, Commander of the Polish Armored Division, which read in part: "The First Canadian Army is proud to have the Polish Armored Division in its ranks. If we continue to fight with equal determination and efficiency, the moment of our common victory is not far off."

Here is how R. Kiersnowski, a Polish war correspondent, described the battle shortly after its conclusion: "The battle lasted three days and was fought in the vicinity of Chambois. The Poles, pushing relentlessly forward, found themselves encircled by those Germans who had been trying to reopen the gap. There were moments when the Poles, cut off from the rear formations, were assaulted on three sides. Nevertheless, they held their ground, repelling all counter-attacks until they were relieved. A momentous battle was fought on the hill. Its soil was thick and clayey and littered with destroyed or burned out tanks, guns and trucks. It is covered with hundreds of German dead. Along the road lie the swollen corpses of horses. Lacking gasoline, the Germans used them to draw vehicles. An enormous quantity of destroyed material is proof of the fierceness of the struggle. At the top of the hill, I met the colonel commanding an infantry battalion. In his helmet pierced by bullets, his head wrapped in bandages, his shirt stained with clotted blood, he looked ghastly. He said: 'I have to apologize for meeting you in such a condition. Unfortunately, all my belongings have been burned and I have nothing to change into. It was a heavy fight, the Germans were almost at our throats. You can realize how difficult it was by seeing our dead.' The sad



Polish tank crews relax after a battle in Normandy.

ceremony of burial was still to be performed. We have to bury our comrades, while the German prisoners bury their own. The first ambulances were just arriving as the road was cut. The wounded had to lie in the fields and wait. Further away, soldiers are busy counting their booty. Everything is to be found there, from guns and ammunition to typewriters. A basket full of wine and brandy is a much-welcomed acquisition. I say good-bye to the colonel and proceed on to another battalion."

Correspondents with the Polish troops report that the Division which came from England early in August is in excellent spirits, happy at its long-awaited opportunity to get at the Germans and proud to do the job with their friends in the other Allied armies.

"These Poles are terrific fighters and they are always looking for places where the fighting is hottest and there are plenty of Germans to kill," cables James MacDonald, a *New York Times* correspondent assigned to the Poles' sector.

During their training, these Polish soldiers became known as one of the finest armored units in the British Isles and repeatedly came out first in competitive maneuvers with other armored groups. Nearly every man in the division has seen service in at least one campaign and many have fought in three. It should be remembered that Poles, throughout their history, have been experts at mobile warfare.

French inhabitants of liberated towns (Please turn to page 14)



Polish tanks advance. France 1944.



# POLISH SECOND CORPS WRESTS PESARO FROM THE GERMANS



King George VI; Lt. General Anders, Commander of the Second Polish Army Corps; and General Sosnkowski, Polish Commander-in-Chief. Italy, July 1944.

ON August 31, Polish troops in Italy scored another notable victory by winning the ancient walled city of Pesaro, Adriatic seaport for the Papal States of Urbino and Pesaro. The Germans had turned Pesaro into an

outpost of the heavily fortified Gothic Line and had ordered an all-out defense of the stronghold. But in two days of fierce fighting with infantry and tanks the Poles stormed and captured the historic port, repulsing the strong counter-attack of the German First Parachute Division. Smashing with British help across the Foglia River, north of Pesaro, along a 16-mile front inland from the sea, the Polish Corps reached points within 2,000 yards of the main Gothic Line fortifications.

Following their capture of Ancona in late July, the Poles have been on the go almost without rest in their drive toward the Germans' Gothic Line of defenses.

Early in August, Polish infantry, supported by tanks, broke German defenses near the Adriatic coast north of Ancona and after an all-day battle pushed within 1,000 yards of the Metauro River. The enemy retreated with heavy losses. One hundred Germans were captured and several tanks were put out of action.

Polish infantry also took important heights between the Cesano and Metauro Rivers. A German counter-attack against Ilvicianato was beaten back by the Poles, who occupied the towns of Monadvio, Serafini, Palerno, Monte Vecchio, Frontone, Ostia and Misa.

On the night of August 25 Polish troops began to cross the Metauro River



Polish Commander-in-Chief, General Sosnkowski, decorates General Leese with the highest Polish Order of Valor, *Virtuti Militari*.

in the face of considerable German shelling and sniping. Enemy delaying action, however, failed to stall the Poles, who rapidly extended their bridgeheads north of the river, taking the high ground around Monte della Mattera south of Mombaroccio. Controlling the area between Borgo Lucrezia and Montefelcino, the Polish Second Corps opened a drive on the coastal town of Pesaro. On August 27, its spearheads reached the Arzila River and on August 29 took the village of Fano. Further inland the Poles enveloped the town of Urbino.

Shortly before the capture of Pesaro, General Anders summed up the achievements of the Polish Second Corps to date: "Since June 15, we have captured or destroyed 14 tanks including Panther tanks, 55 heavy guns, eleven of which are self-propelled Hornets, 32 field guns, 97 anti-tank guns of different caliber. 3,170 prisoners and 2,500 dead Germans were found in the area taken by the Poles. The Second Polish Corps pushed forward a hundred and fifty miles, fighting seven major engagements: the river crossings of Chienti and Potenza, Mussore, the hills and town of Osimo and Ancona, the river crossings of Cesano and Metauro, reaching the Gothic Line. Owing to the destruction of roads, 2,000 mules carried supplies and our wounded had to be transported by plane. Polish engineers did a grand job building 54 bridges, removing mines and barricades, and filling up bomb craters. Though we have to face major engagements, we regard them as routine work. Our deepest concern is worry about the fate of heroic Warsaw."



"Although your national soil is all red with the blood which bathes it, your rights are so sure that we have a firm hope that all nations will take cognizance of their debt to Poland, the theatre and too often the plaything of their conflicts, and that whoever retains a spark of truly human Christian sentiment in his heart will seek to revindicate for her the entire place which is her due, according to principles of justice and true peace."

—Pope Pius XII addressing soldiers of the Polish Second Corps in Italy during an audience at the Vatican on July 28, 1944.

As the Poles fought north of Ancona, they took a seaside town that had been a popular summer bathing resort before the war. But the Poles found it empty and looted by the Germans. On the walls, German proclamations written in Italian offered anyone revealing the presence of escaped British prisoners of war rewards and promised that any of the informer's relatives interned in Germany would be set free. Carpathian Uhlans took a small town in which there was a castle owned by the old Italian family of Gonzaga. There they unexpectedly discovered a bit

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Polish heavy machine gun in action on the Italian front.



German prisoners taken by the Poles during the battle for Ancona, Italy.



# Tomasz Arciszewski, New President-Designate of Poland

INTRODUCING Tomasz Arciszewski at a press conference in London, Vice-Premier Jan Kwapinski said: "I have the pleasure to present my old friend and comrade, Tomasz Arciszewski, Chairman of the Executive Socialist Party. I know Arciszewski from shared fights and work forty years ago in the Polish Socialist Party militant squads during the revolution of 1905-1907. He is older than I am and has belonged to the party forty-two years. He is a metal worker and like many other Polish workers entered the Polish Socialist Party at the turn of the century in order to fight for Polish independence and social justice in a free Poland. Forty years ago, he was forced to emigrate for the first time—and here in London on your free soil he found shelter and the possibility of carrying out political work with our famous colleagues, Wasilewski, Jedrzejowski, Moscicki and Wojciechowski.

In 1900, after returning to Poland, he was put into Tsarist prison. After his release, he was arrested again in 1904. All together, he spent three and a half years in prisons. During the revolution he was our top leader. The Tsarist authorities promised ten thousand rubles for his head. That was a large sum then—one thousand pounds.

Underground fighting against the Germans was already organized by him during the last war, during the occupation of Warsaw in 1917 and 1918. Even then, more than one German official fell into the hands of the Polish Underground movement.

In independent Poland he was a member of the first two "Peoples Governments," for long years a member of Sejm and active in the Trade Union and Cooperative movement and from 1931, chairman of the executive committee of the Polish Socialist Party. In this capacity during the last five terrible years of the German occupation, he was leader of the Polish Labor Underground movement and as representative of this movement arrived in London."



Tomasz Arciszewski.

On August 10, 1944, the official *Dziennik Ustaw* published the decree of President Raczkiewicz appointing Arciszewski president-designate: "In accordance with article twenty-four of the Constitution, I appoint Tomasz Arciszewski successor to the president of the Republic in the event of the president's office becoming vacant before the peace is concluded."

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## POLISH SECOND CORPS WRESTS PESARO FROM THE GERMANS

(Continued from page 13)

of Poland. A family tree of the Gonzagas, printed in Dresden at the beginning of the 18th century, had in it a number of Polish kings who were related to the Gonzagas.

On his recent visit to the Italian front, King George VI of Great Britain reviewed Polish troops. The monarch who arrived by plane accompanied by General Sir Harold Alexander and General Sir Oliver Leese, was greeted by General

Kazimierz Sosnkowski and General Wladyslaw Anders.

After the playing of the Polish and British national anthems, the Polish troops passed in review before King George to the tune of "La Varsovienne." This review contained detachments of Carpathian infantry that had won Monte Cassino, armored units that had captured Piedimonte and recently broken through German lines at Ancona. After them came the famous Polish Lancers who had raised Polish and British flags over Monte Cairo.

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## POLISH ARMORED DIVISION SEALS ALLIED VICTORY IN NORMANDY

(Continued from page 11)

greet the Poles with great joy. Whenever the Poles take a new village, wine is waiting for them to drink victory toasts with the populace whose tear-filled eyes reveal the depth of their gratitude.

Besides this motorized division, Polish air squadrons are now operating from air fields in Normandy. These fighter pilots form part of the aerial support of Allied troops. They also raid German supply positions far behind the lines.



# POLISH HOME ARMY FIGHTS IN FLAMING RUINS OF WARSAW

(Continued from page 5)

strongholds and captured much needed arms and ammunition. On August 12, 116,000 rounds of rifle ammunition were taken, along with 8,500 rounds of ammunition for small arms, a number of pistols, anti-tank mines, machine-guns and six motor cars.

"The German forces are fighting desperately. When the Home Army set fire to a building on Jerusalem Boulevard the Germans were using as a fortress, two German soldiers tried to escape to Polish lines under a white flag. An SS officer who saw the attempt, shot them on the spot. The next day on the same boulevard when the Germans were bringing up supplies in tanks, they drove 500 women and children before them as a living shield against the Home Army's fire. This is by no means an isolated example. German forces have brutally murdered and wounded sick people, both men and women, in the Lazarus Hospital and the Karol and Maria Hospital. Wounded Poles found in the two hospitals, regardless of age or sex were murdered by the Germans."

Other British airmen fighting in Warsaw reported that RAF planes that flew over Warsaw were enthusiastically greeted by the population despite shrapnel falling in the streets. Poles cried "They are ours! They are British!"

Besides the British, there are two Soviet soldiers who also escaped from German prisoner-of-war camps, and now fight in the ranks of the Polish Home Army. They wear the Polish Eagle and the Red Star.

On August 24 the Warsaw radio station "Blyskawica" reported that the Poles had stormed the German Police Headquarters on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street, taking much booty and liberating 8 priests and 50 civilians who had been held there. Thirty Germans were killed and sixty were taken prisoner. The Germans set fire to Holy Cross Church, where lies Chopin's heart, after they had used it as a fortress. Houses on Krucza, Wilcza and Wspolna Streets were burning. A camera unit, composed of fighting photographers, has been taking pictures of the fighting and on August 23 pictures were shown of the storming of the Telephone Exchange. The patriots have also occupied the main building of the Polytechnic in the center of the city.

When the embattled Poles heard the news of the liberation of Paris, they transmitted a message of congratulation to the French Forces of the Interior. The message, broadcast by the Warsaw radio station, reads as follows:

"Comrades! On the day when Paris, capital of liberty and a center of civilized Europe, has torn off its chains with magnificent courage, the soldiers of the Polish Home Army, who have been fighting for three weeks in the city of Warsaw, send you warm congratulations. We are fighting for the same ideals of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity!"

"May we call your attention to our common historical traditions and our joint fight against aggressors on all the battlefields of Europe. Today, on the occasion of your splendid victory over tyranny, we share your joy and triumph. We are convinced that the defeat of the Germans, who are the enemies of freedom, will lead to an ultimate realization of the ideals in the name of which Poland was the first to take up arms five years ago.

"Warsaw was the first occupied capital to begin open warfare. We are also proud that the soldiers of the Polish Armored Division—as well as our aviators—participated in the fighting which culminated in your wonderful victory, in that great success which will spell the defeat of our common foe in France.

"Hail to the heroic soldiers of the French Forces of the Interior!"

"Hail to the heroes of Paris!"

"Long live France!"

"Long live Poland!"

"Long live Liberty!"

Life in those parts of Warsaw controlled by Poles is already organized. Civil Administration of the capital is under the supervision of the "Delegate of the Capital." Since several districts are completely isolated, the administration in those parts is carried out by "Area Delegates." Delegates of executive bodies are the "State Security Corps," and "Block Commanders," who control blocks of flats and dwelling houses. In addition, each house had its own "House Commander." Communication between various houses is carried out by means of the maze of underground passages. These have been dug through cellar walls so that now they connect all the houses in an entire district. The Council of National Unity meets to study such problems as food supply, first aid and the welfare of those who lost their homes in the fighting or the fires.

On August 25 "Blyskawica" broadcast an impassioned appeal to the International Red Cross to arrange an immediate investigation of conditions at Pruszkow, where 150,000 Warsaw women, children and older men have been kept several weeks in the open. The appalling absence of sanitation and complete lack of food and clothing are causing a high mortality rate. Patriot headquarters have also charged the Germans with the mass execution of 3,000 Poles captured since the outbreak of the uprising in Warsaw.

In another broadcast the following communiqué was read: "The press of Warsaw, the people of Warsaw and men and women fighting on the barricades ask help for the Pruszkow internees. Warsaw is suffering agonies because of Pruszkow, will you help? The internees are your kin, they are also kin to those who fight in the streets of Warsaw. Will the Allies hear our call? We call for help for Pruszkow. We waited 24 days for arms and ammunition and do our job, but it is impossible for starving people to wait for another 24 hours. Food must be delivered immediately. Fighting and bleeding Warsaw demands immediate help for the Pruszkow internees!"

At the same time, the delegate of the Polish Government in Warsaw appealed to Prime Minister Mikolajczyk for immediate food and clothing relief for Warsaw's homeless. He reported that some 250,000 persons lost all their possessions during the first three weeks of fighting and that the greater part of Warsaw was burned out.

On August 30 the radio station "Blyskawica" broadcast an urgent appeal to British and American women on behalf of the women of Warsaw, saying: "Demand that your governments help us. Why should Poland, which has been fighting for five years alongside the Allies, not be given any help, when this has not been refused to Laval's France and Antonescu's Rumania? Must our distress signals remain unanswered?"

As Warsaw gallantly fights on, the words of General Bor take on special meaning:

"A million hearts beat in unison. Warsaw is a rock amidst an ocean of the German Wehrmacht—a lonely but intransigent challenger. There are no waverers—everybody takes his part in the deadly struggle. We are told of appeals issued for unity among the Poles. Here is our reply—look at Warsaw! There are not two Warsaws, one burned to ashes and the other untouched. There is no difference between the Warsaw in our hands and the Warsaw still under the enemy's control. There is only one Warsaw—as there is only one Poland!"



# A PROCLAMATION

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"Five years have passed since mechanized armies of Adolph Hitler, unprovoked and without warning, struck at the peaceful Polish people. The unprepared condition of the Polish people was of itself a testimony of their desire for peace. The Nazis overran their land and enslaved its population without a sign of single human consideration. Outnumbered and overwhelmed, the Poles lived up to the gallant tradition of their history.

"Today Polish fighting men are playing a formidable role among the armies, air forces, and navies of the United Nations. In Italy, on the Adriatic front, the Polish contingent of the British 8th Army has the honor of being in the vanguard of leading the advance against the German Army. Here on the home front men and women of Polish origin are laboring day and night to help in the task of equipping the forces fighting for freedom.

"On the fifth anniversary of

the beginning of the valiant resistance of the Polish people, we have cause to join them in mourning the death of many brave men and women in the hands of their oppressors. But we also have cause to rejoice that the tables are now being turned, that the day of the liberation of all oppressed peoples is not far off.

"Therefore, I, Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim that Friday, September 1, 1944, be set aside as 'Tribute to Poland Day' and I urge all citizens of New York State to join their compatriots of Polish origin in the fitting celebration of this day.

"Given under my hand and to the Privy Seal of the State of New York in the capitol in the City of Albany this 31st day of August in the year of our Lord 1944."

THOMAS E. DEWEY,  
*Governor of the  
State of New York.*